



SENATOR ROBERT D. GARTON

serving district 41: bartholomew and johnson counties

200 W. Washington Street • Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 • www.in.gov/S41

Governor Proposes Solutions to Indiana's Financial Trouble

Governor Mitch Daniels' highly anticipated State of the State address was a showcase for his now well-known attributes: leadership, innovation and a steadfast determination to cure Indiana's fiscal crisis.

The governor reiterated the severity of budget problems that have been brewing for several years and made it clear that long-term solutions will require commitment and sacrifice from all of us who want Indiana to flourish.

Currently, the state budget has an estimated \$600 million structural deficit in addition to owing schools and local governments about \$717 million in delayed payments. To pull the state out of this situation, the Governor has proposed a variety of spending restraints, including no increase in funding for corrections, state agency capital budgets, Medicaid, and education.

Unfortunately, even if each of the Governor's ideas are adopted, the state will still face a \$250 million structural deficit. To close this gap, the governor has asked the General Assembly to pass a one-time, 1 percent surtax on the income of those who earn more than \$100,000 per year. If this initiative were to pass, 95 percent of Hoosier taxpayers would have no income tax increase.

"I understand and respect that the governor has a responsibility to manage the state budget ... and I appreciate his willingness to provide some clear direction."

There will clearly be a great deal of discussion and debate before this proposal comes to a vote, with no certainty of its passage. However, to be fair, the Governor has been clear from the beginning that "everything is on the table," and he is being consistent with these proposals.

If the 1 percent surtax on higher-income families is approved, it would be for a one-year period only. The governor made it explicitly clear he would veto any attempt to extend it. The Governor said in his speech that he will not hesitate to veto any legislative attempt to substitute a tax increase for spending restraint, outside of his specifications. I understand and respect that the governor has the responsibility to manage the state budget once passed by the Legislature, so I appreciate his willingness to provide some clear direction on how he would like the budgeting process to proceed.

I support the Governor's determination to cure Indiana's fiscal problems, and I am ready to work with him to accomplish this goal. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our community at the Indiana Statehouse.

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upcoming events in the indiana senate

- February 24 - Last Day to File and Adopt Committee Reports
- February 28 - Last Day for Second Readings
- March 1 - Last Day for Third Readings

SENATE FACTS

key information about the indiana senate

Membership: 50

Elected by: Voters of each district

Term of Office: State senators are elected to four-year terms. These terms are staggered in such a way that half of the 50 seats are subject to election every two years.

Qualifications: U.S. citizen; resident of Indiana for at least two years before the election; resident of the district for one year prior to the election; at least 25 years of age.

Presiding Officer: It is the constitutional duty of the lieutenant governor to serve as president of the Senate.

Session Length: Session commences the Tuesday after the second Monday in January each year, unless a different day or place is appointed by law. In odd-numbered years, session must adjourn no later than April 29. In even-numbered years, session must adjourn no later than March 13.

Administration: The Legislative Council is composed of 16 legislators, eight from the House of Representatives and eight from the Senate. The chairman rotates annually between the speaker of the House and the president pro tempore of the Senate. Council members set policy for interim activities, recommend rule changes, authorize studies and study committees, and review and supervise expenditures.

Salary: \$11,600 annually

SENATE DISTRICT 41

Adopted April 29, 2001
Effective November 5, 2002

This map is a visual representation of the district and is only for reference purposes. For a detailed description of this district, consult the Indiana Code.

